

STAR WARS



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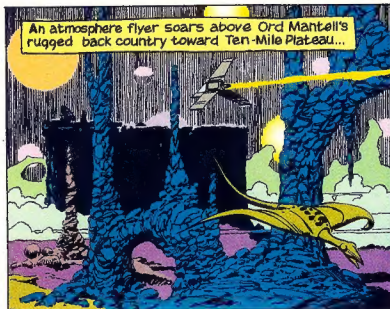
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An atmosphere flyer soars above Ord Mantell's rugged back country toward Ten-Mile Plateau...



...and the abandoned stellar energy station on its crest.

SOLO FOLLOWED INSTRUCTIONS SWIFTLY, GRIBBET, SIGNALING HIM INTO A HOLDING PATTERN...

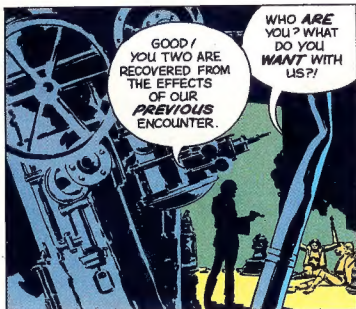


...WHILE I READY OUR GUESTS FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR LITTLE GAME!



S-SORRY, LEIA! THEY GOT ME FROM BEHIND... E-EFFECTS ARE... HARD TO SHAKE OFF...

W-WHERE ARE WE?



GOOD! YOU TWO ARE RECOVERED FROM THE EFFECTS OF OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER.

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US?!

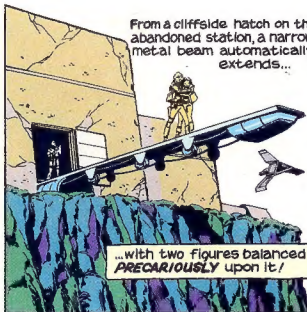


MY NAME IS SKORR-I'M A BOUNTY HUNTER. AND YOU'VE **ALREADY** SERVED MY PURPOSES. WHETHER YOU **SURVIVE** THE EXPERIENCE.

...WILL BE DETERMINED
SHORTLY BY THE GENTLEMAN
OUTSIDE LURED HERE BY
YOUR PRESENCE --
HAN SOLO!



From a cliffside hatch on the
abandoned station, a narrow
metal beam automatically
extends...



...with two figures balanced
PRECARIOUSLY upon it!

ALL SET, GRIBBET. BUT BEFORE
WE DEAL WITH SOLO, WHAT'S
THE *MILLENNIUM FALCON*'S
POSITION?



Studying the portable scanner, Skorr's
helper reports...

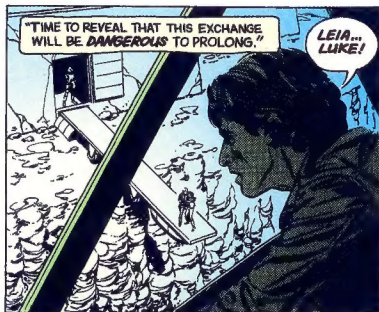
IT'S STILL AT THE
LANDING FIELD --
BUT WITH ENGINES
IN THEIR
WARMING
CYCLE?



OBVIOUSLY,
THE *WOOKIEE*
WILL MOVE ON
US WHILE HIS
PARTNER
STALLS.

"TIME TO REVEAL THAT THIS EXCHANGE
WILL BE **DANGEROUS** TO PROLONG."

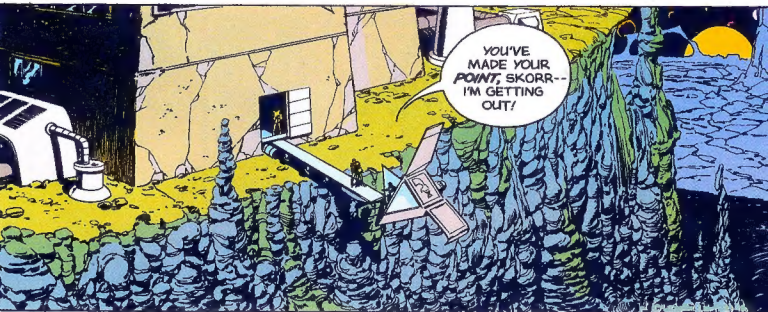
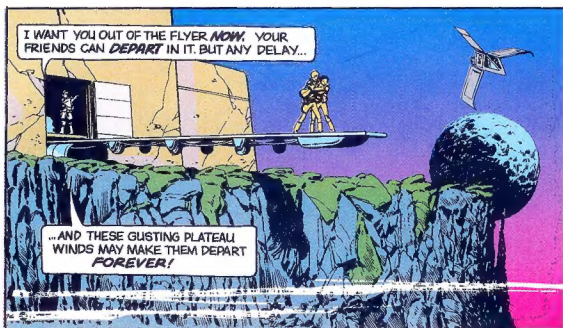
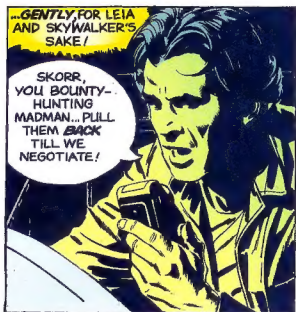
**LEIA...
LUKE!**

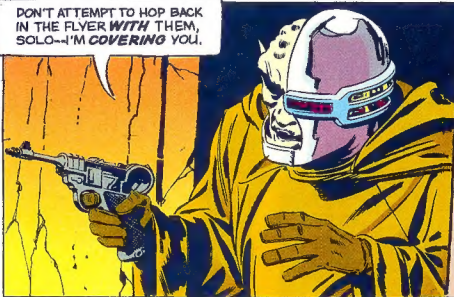


THIS WAS ONCE PART
OF A **LOADING CRANE**,
SOLO. IT'S NOW OUR
EXCHANGE SITE.

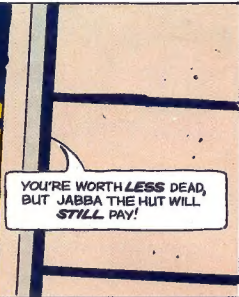
BRING YOUR FLYER TO
HOVER AT THE FAR
END...







DON'T ATTEMPT TO HOP BACK
IN THE FLYER *WITH* THEM,
SOLO--I'M *COVERING* YOU.



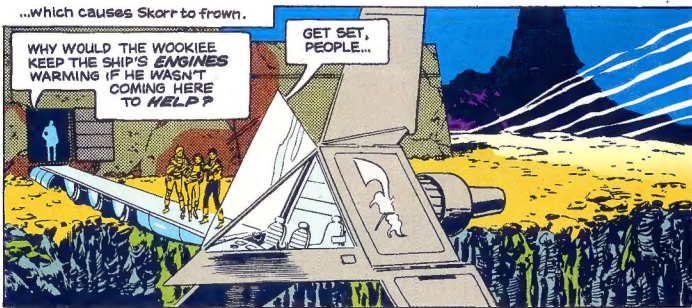
YOU'RE WORTH *LESS* DEAD,
BUT JABBA THE HUT WILL
STILL PAY!



GRIBBET, HAS THE
MILLENNIUM FALCON
LEFT THE LANDING
FIELD YET?

The bounty
hunter's small
cohort shakes
his head...

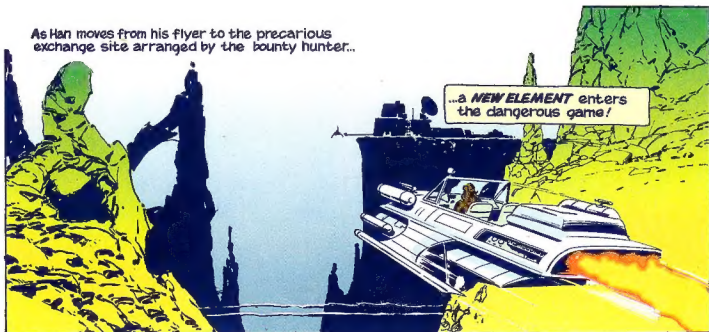
...which causes Skorr to frown.

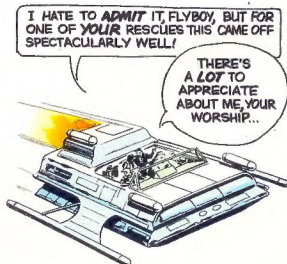
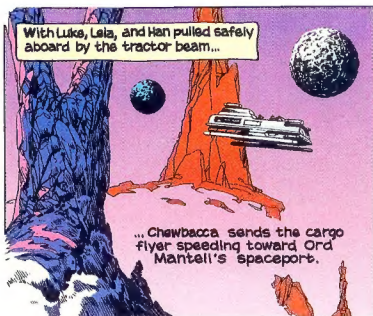
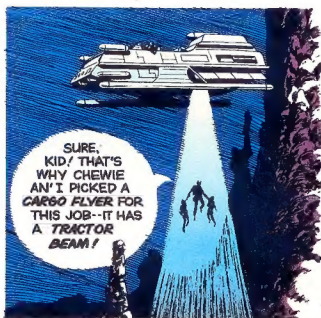


WHY WOULD THE WOOKIEE
KEEP THE SHIP'S *ENGINES*
WARMING IF HE WASN'T
COMING HERE
TO *HELP*?

GET SET,
PEOPLE...

As Han moves from his flyer to the precarious exchange site arranged by the bounty hunter...





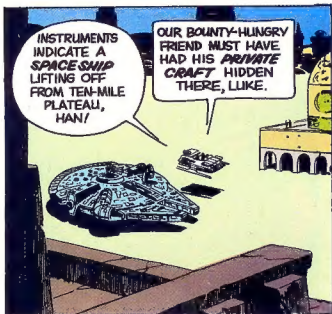
...BUT THIS TIME I
OUTDID MYSELF! EVEN
WORE A METAL HARNESS
UNDER MY SHIRT FOR
THE BEAM TO LOCK
ON, AND--

HAN! WE'RE BEING
FOLLOWED!

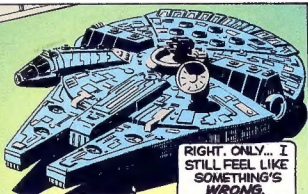


INSTRUMENTS
INDICATE A
SPACESHIP
LIFTING OFF
FROM TEN-MILE
PLATEAU,
HAN!

OUR BOUNTY-HUNGRY
FRIEND MUST HAVE
HAD HIS *PRIVATE*
CRAFT HIDDEN
THERE, LUKE.



NO PROBLEM. THE *FALCON'S* ALREADY IN
ITS WARM-UP CYCLE--WE PRESET
OUR *COMPUTER*
TO DO THAT TO FOOL
SKORR INTO
THINKING CHEWIE
STAYED HERE.



RIGHT. ONLY... I
STILL FEEL LIKE
SOMETHING'S
WRONG.

THE DAY WHEN I
CAN'T LOSE *ONE*
SHIP WHILE
LEAVING A
PLANET HASN'T
COME YET!



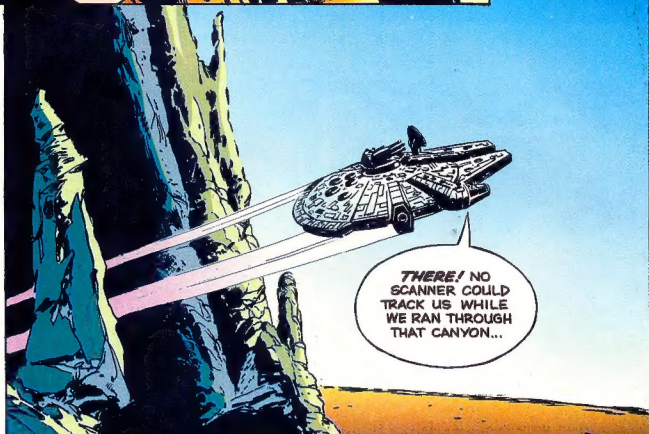
DON'T WORRY,
KID. TRUST A
JMUGGLER TO KNOW
SOME TRICKY
WAYS TO LEAVE
A PLANET!





LUKE... YOU'RE STILL BOTHERED.
IS IT THE **FORCE**? ANYTHING
DEFINITE YOU CAN TELL US?

NO, JUST
THIS SENSE
THAT...
SOMETHING'S
WRONG!



THERE! NO
SCANNER COULD
TRACK US WHILE
WE RAN THROUGH
THAT CANYON...

SKORR MAY BE **FOLLOWING** US, BUT WE'LL BE
IN **HYPERSPACE** BEFORE HE CAN **FIX** US AGAIN!



WE'RE
OVERLOOKING
SOMETHING,
HAN... I
CAN **FEEL**
IT!



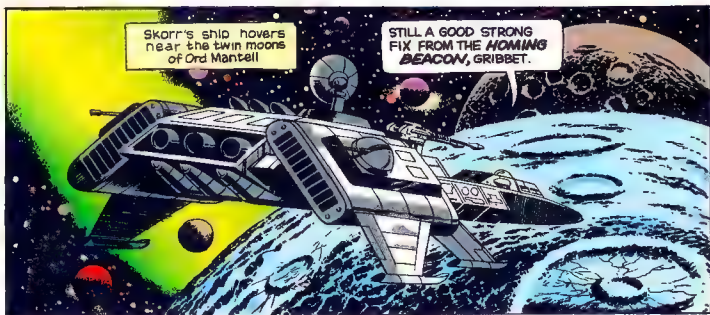




Somewhere ahead...

ADMIRAL, WE'VE DETECTED SUSPICIOUS **SMALL SHIP** ACTIVITY AROUND THE MOONS OF ORD MANTELL.

A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE **IMPERIAL MIGHT** TO THE LOCAL RIFF-RAFF!



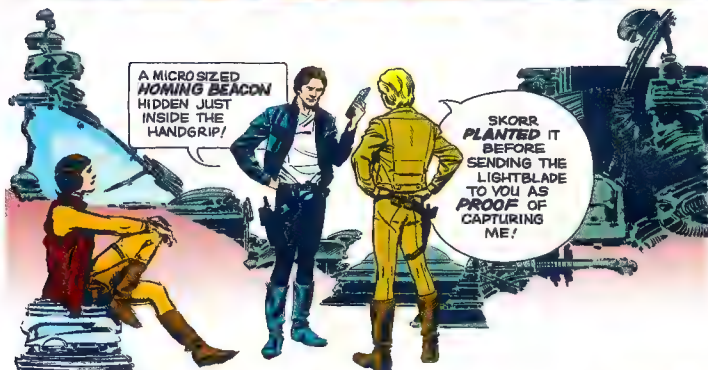
Skorrr's ship hovers near the twin moons of Ord Mantell

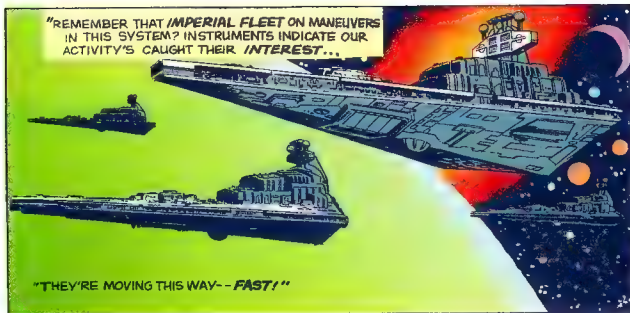
STILL A GOOD STRONG FIX FROM THE **HOMING BEACON**, GRIBBET.

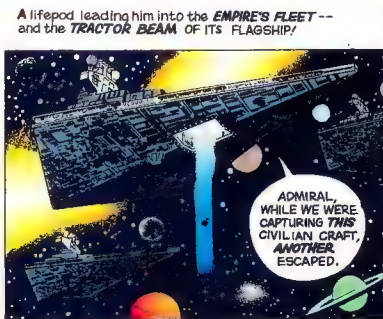
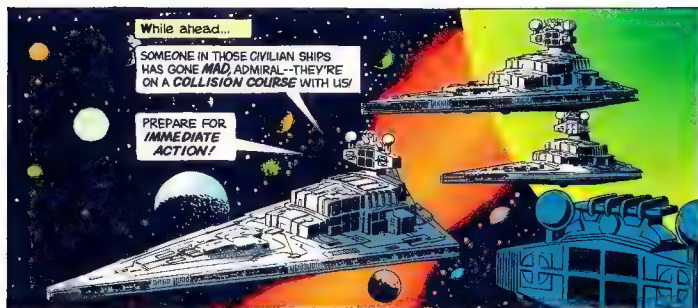
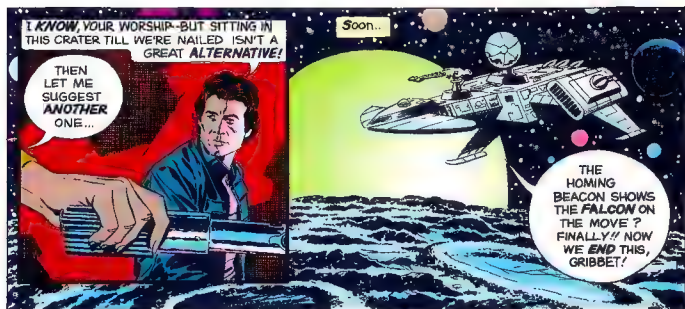


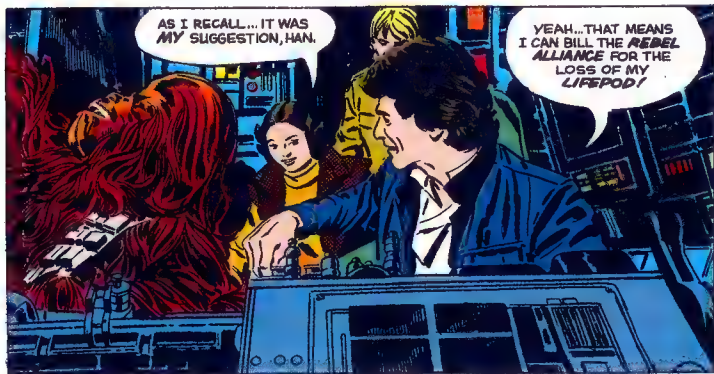
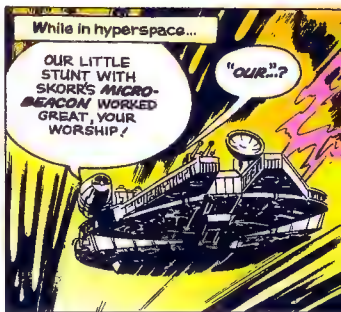
WHEN SOLO DECIDES HE'S **LOST** US WHIPPING AROUND THE LUNAR SURFACES, WE'LL **RENEW** THE CHASE.

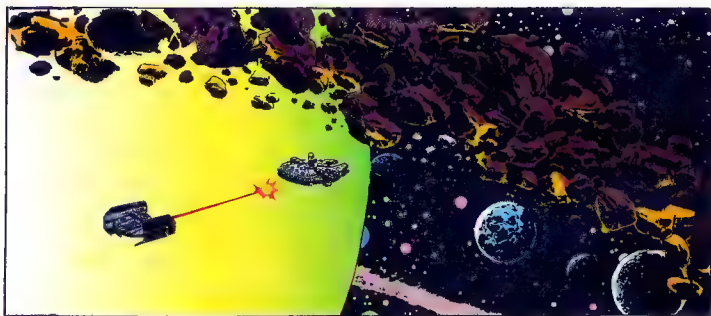
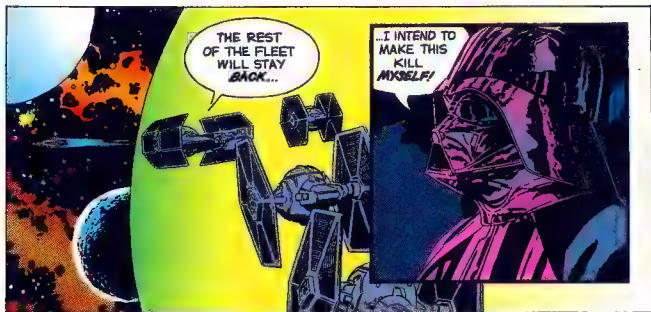
SET DOWN **HERE**, CHEWIE! THIS CRATER'LL **HIDE** US WHILE WE CHECK OUT LUKE'S **THEORY**!

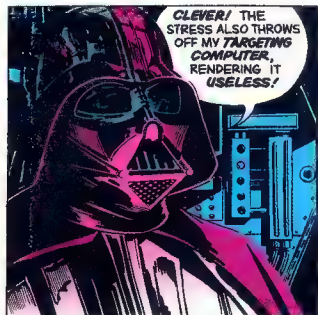








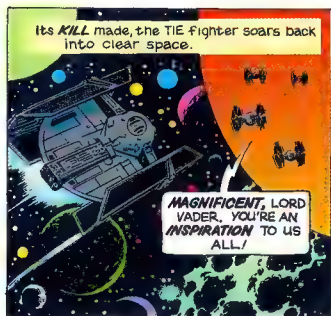




CLEVER! THE STRESS ALSO THROWS OFF MY **TARGETING COMPUTER**, RENDERING IT **USELESS!**

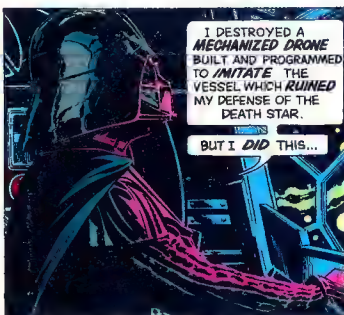


FORTUNATELY, I HAVE **MORE** TO DRAW UPON THAN A MERE COMPUTER!



Its **KILL** made, the TIE fighter soars back into clear space.

MAGNIFICENT, LORD VADER. YOU'RE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL!



I DESTROYED A **MECHANIZED DRONE** BUILT AND PROGRAMMED TO **IMITATE** THE VESSEL WHICH **RUINED** MY DEFENSE OF THE DEATH STAR.

BUT I **DID** THIS...



...BY EMPLOYING THE **FORCE!** SINCE THAT IS SCARCELY **STANDARD ISSUE** TO IMPERIAL PILOTS, YOU'D BEST LOOK **ELSEWHERE** FOR INSPIRATION!

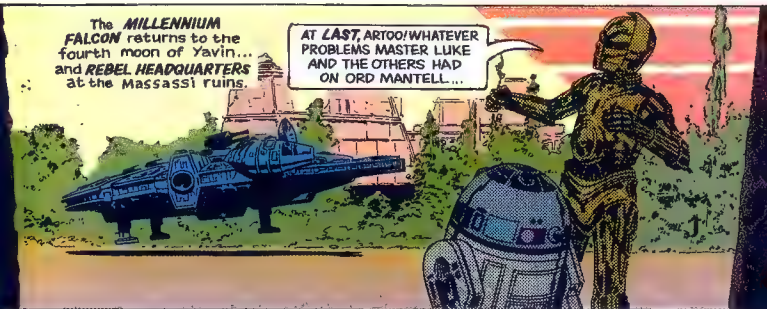


TODAY'S TEST SATISFIES ME THAT THE **BEST** MOVE AGAINST THE REBELS AND THEIR FRIENDS...

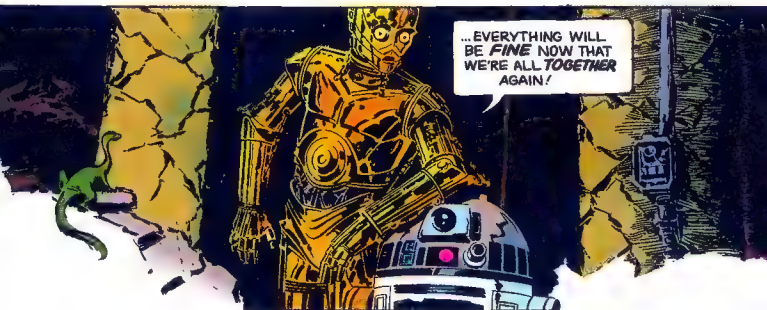
...IS WITH SOMETHING **BIGGER** AND **BETTER!**

The **MILLENNIUM FALCON** returns to the fourth moon of Yavin... and **REBEL HEADQUARTERS** at the Massassi ruins.

AT LAST, ARTOO! WHATEVER PROBLEMS MASTER LUKE AND THE OTHERS HAD ON ORD MANTELL...

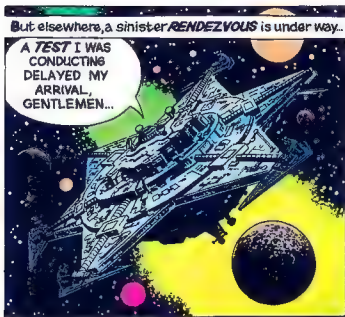


...EVERYTHING WILL BE **FINE** NOW THAT WE'RE ALL **TOGETHER** AGAIN!



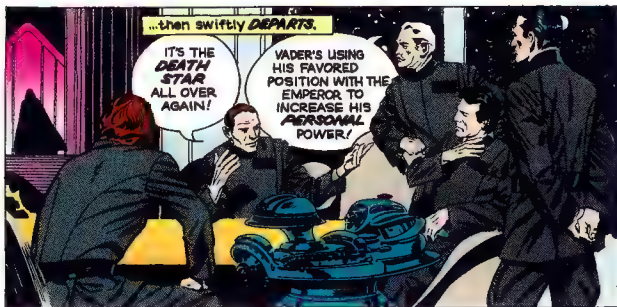
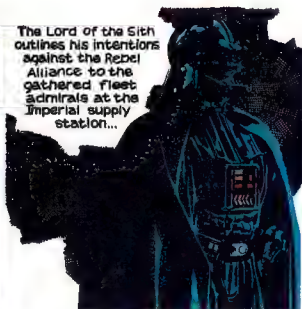
But elsewhere, a sinister **RENDEZVOUS** is under way...

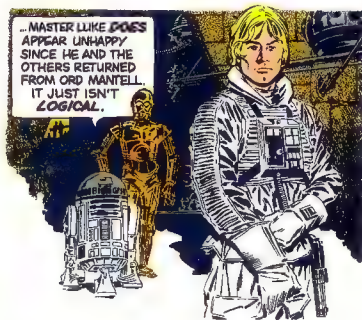
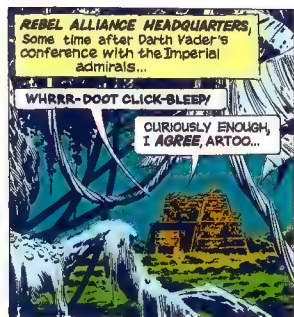
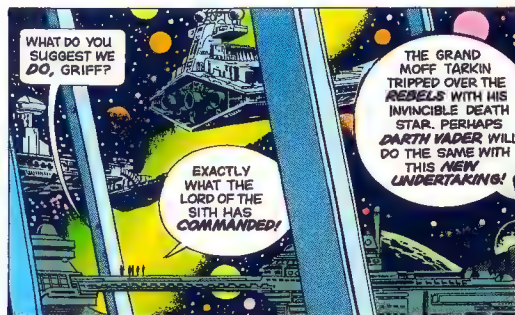
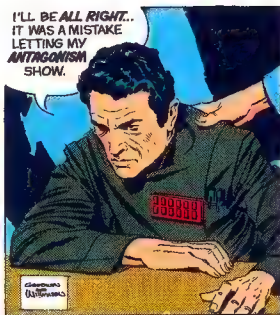
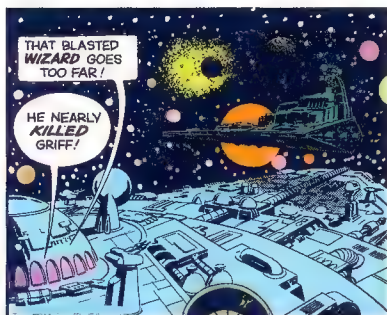
A **TEST** I WAS CONDUCTING DELAYED MY ARRIVAL, GENTLEMEN...

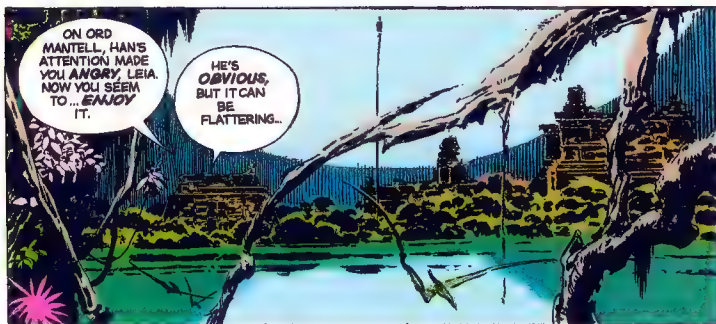
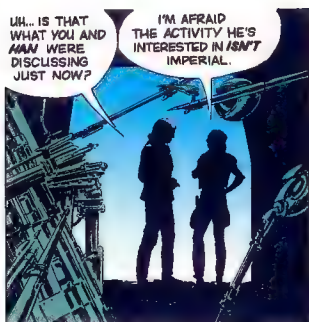


... I'VE DECIDED ON OUR **COURSE** AGAINST THE REBELS, UNLESS SOMEONE **ELSE** CARES TO JOIN ADMIRAL GRIFF IN RAISING AN **OBJECTION**?







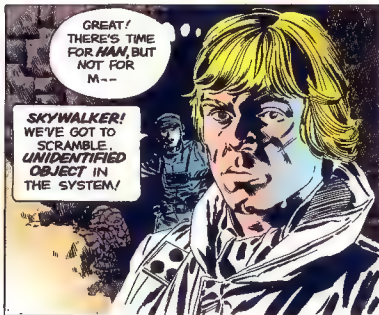


... WHEN THERE'S *TIME* FOR IT, AND THE REBELLION DOESN'T ALLOW MUCH OF THAT. I'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT *MEETING*, LUKE.



GREAT!
THERE'S TIME
FOR *HAN*, BUT
NOT FOR
M--

SKYWALKER!
WE'VE GOT TO
SCRAMBLE.
**UNIDENTIFIED
OBJECT IN
THE SYSTEM!**



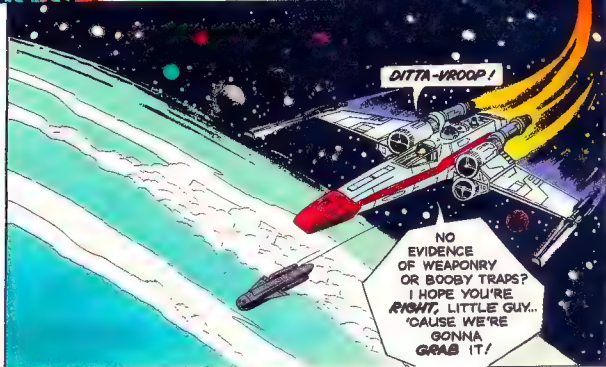
First up for a patrol, Luke investigates the intruder into the Yavin system...

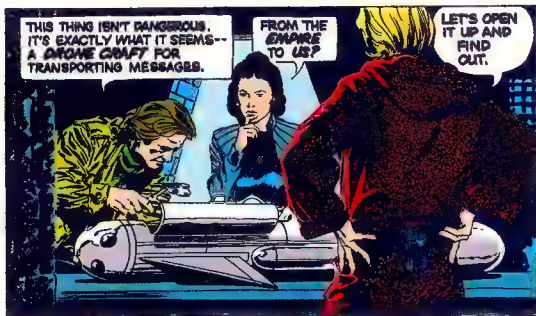
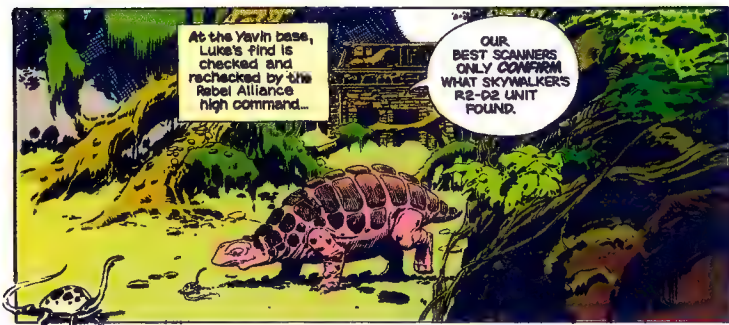
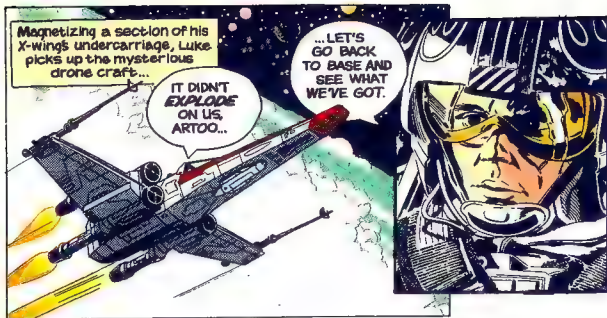
IT'S SOME
KIND OF **DRONE
CRAFT**. ARTOO,
WHAT DO YOUR
SENSORS PICK
UP?



DITTA-VROOP!

NO
EVIDENCE
OF WEAPONRY
OR BOOBY TRAPS?
I HOPE YOU'RE
RIGHT, LITTLE GUY...
'CAUSE WE'RE
GONNA
GRAB IT!





And...

THAT
UNIFORM—
HE'S AN
IMPERIAL
ADMIRAL!

SHH!
LISTEN...

I AM COMMUNICATING
IN THIS OBSCURE
MANNER FOR MY OWN
PROTECTION, REBELS.
FOR I'M ABOUT
TO BETRAY
DARTH
VADER !

STELLAR scribes

c/o DARK HORSE COMICS • 10956 SE MAIN • MILWAUKIE, OR 97222



Dear Dark Horse,

I just received your preview of *Classic Star Wars* #1, and allow me to say that it is very reminiscent of the films.

When it arrived, I quickly ripped open the package and read it. The feeling I had when I saw the first *Star Wars* film for the first time was rekindled. The atmosphere, mood, and dialogue of the movies was superbly recreated by Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Williamson — very nice indeed!

I can't wait for future issues, especially since the names of the artists who will be contributing are the likes of Mark (*Cadillacs and Dinosaurs*) Shultz and Dave (*The Rocketeer*) Stevens! This title is going to be hot, and a fine companion to the other *Star Wars* comic you produce, which I buy every issue of, by the way.

It's a shame that the preview I saw wasn't in color, but at least I'll be able to have the pleasure of seeing it with everyone else... double the pleasure, double the fun!

All in all, bravo! An excellent job, everyone. Keep me on the preview list, please! This was my first Dark Horse preview, and it's already addictive —

give me more!

I can't wait for issue #2, and neither will anyone else once they read this one. Thanks.

Phil Hall
Waterloo, IA

We'd love to send out color preview copies, Phil, but unfortunately our production schedule doesn't allow for that. Previews have to be mailed at least three months before a book sees print so that we can get responses in time to put together a letter column. Steve Buccellato was probably working on his color guides for Classic Star Wars #1 at the same time that you were reading your advance copy. (Besides, if we had sent you a color copy, you'd have little reason to pick up the actual comic book, right?!)

Dear Dark Horse,

Thank you for the preview copy of *Classic Star Wars*. I received it some time during spring break while on vacation, and was pleasantly surprised to read it once I returned. Judging by the black-and-white copy you sent me, Dark Horse has another winner on its hands.

The very idea of going back and telling stories be-

tween the *Star Wars* movies is fantastic. I almost jumped out of my seat when I read the name of the planet the Falcon set down on for repairs: Ord Mantell. In *The Empire Strikes Back*, while storming after Han in the ice caves, Leia says, "I thought you had decided to stay," in reference to Han's decision to leave, and Han replies, "Well, the bounty hunter we ran into on Ord Mantell changed my mind." Wonderful job of tying this story into the movie saga! That exchange hinted at another story that could be told, and it's fantastic that you've gotten a hold of this material to tell it to us.

I have a large collection of old *Star Wars* comics from Marvel, and while you probably want to avoid comparisons between the two, they are inevitable, especially since Archie Goodwin scripted many of the early Marvel issues. The story was just as good, if not better, than anything I've read from that title. One of the reasons for this is the outstanding scripting.

The banter between the characters is one of the best aspects of the three movies, and this story kept up the outstanding tradition. C3PO's bickering with Artoo on page five, and all

"morbid little rustbucket" really cracked me up, so I went out of my way to include that exchange in the first issue.

As for future Star Wars films, I'm sorry to report that I have no word on George Lucas' current plans. You'll just have to content yourself with our comics for the time being!

Oh, and for the record, the covers to this series are being colored by Gregory Wright.

Phst: This is Steven.
Singer calling Dark Horse.
Are you there, Dark Horse?
Over.

Zrt: This is Dark Horse.
We receive you, Steve.
Over.

Yrtz: Thank you, Dark Horse. I received your special Top Secret Information on the Empire. It was very interesting. I had no idea young Skywalker and the princess were in so much trouble. Over.

Trz: We're afraid so, Steve. They're lucky Mr. Solo and the droids were there to help them out. Over.

Bzg: You bet! If it weren't for him they would have been nothing but two sizzling piles of molecular dust!!! Over.

Rtz: You got that right!!!
Over.

Frgz: You know, in retrospect, there sure are a lot of bounty hunters in the galaxy these days! Skorr and Gribbet are real scum. If my Tri-fighter wasn't so

busted up from that last confrontation with the Death Star, I'd go down there myself and kick some bounty-hunter butt!!! Over.

Rtyz: Yah! That's too bad, Over.

Ytfz: You know, I think Han and Leia make a great couple! Maybe they ought to get it together, if you know what I mean!!!! Over.

Tryz: Well, they won't be getting anything together if Han doesn't do something quick! Over.

Draz: Ha! Han Solo!!!
He'll think of something!
He always does!!! Over.

Ytf: We hope so. Over.

Uh: Well, I'd best be on my way. Me and the boys are going to chill down the ol' cantina. Maybe we'll see some Imperial troops and have an Imperial Rumble!!! Over.

Trf: Yah! That's the spirit! Tell 'em where the Emperor can stick it!! Over.

Grs: Uh? Where can the Emperor stick it!? Over.

Thg: FFFFFFFFZZZZZ
ZZZZZZZZZ We're losing
you, Steve! YYTFTGGGG
GGGGGG!!!!!!

Uhj: Ok! Ok! I get the picture! May the force be with you, and all that jazz!!! Over and out!

Your Rebel without a cause,
Steve "Yoda" Singer

Do Rebels really say things like "chill" and "all that jazz"? I suspect Imperial interf—SQRREE-EAWKbzzzzzzzzzzzzz.....

—Anina “Obi-Wan”
Bennett

One last comment on the art. It's almost a shame you have to color the cover for this book. It looks absolutely stunning in black and white; Al Williamson has outdone himself creating this masterpiece. Maybe a poster is in order (hint, hint). However, I have faith in Steve Buccellato to color the title; his previous work has been outstanding.

My one complaint has nothing to do with Dark Horse at all. I've read that George Lucas no longer plans to continue the *Star Wars* films. Is this true? If so, please do your best to help change his mind. Perhaps if you gave out an address that concerned fans could write to we could all work together to change this terrible decision.

James Evans
Madison, WI

Much as I'd like to, I can't take credit for any influence over Archie Goodwin's fine scripting work, since Classic Star Wars is assembled from newspaper strips created a decade ago. I do have some control over which lines of dialogue end up in the final version, though — for example, Threepio calling Artoo a



DCP

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DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*